

December 2004

FLY PAPER



President's Beat

29,000 Coloradoans from both political parties and environmental groups submitted comments relating to the proposed removal of road building bans on 58 million acres of National Forest lands. Thank you to all of the members of RMFC who sent letters.

This is one of many problems that affect our cold-water resources. Others include the acid rain from coal-fired electricity generation; a proposal to return mountain lakes to their original fishless state, and growing needs for our limited water resources. What can we do as members of Trout Unlimited? There are various levels of participation.

Minimal participation is to retain your TU membership. The funds for your annual membership support the protection and renewal of our cold-water resources. Please consider additional participation. Encourage others to join TU. Use some of your time to write comments regarding proposals that affect cold-water resources. Attend meetings of your local Chapter. Contribute additional funds to NTU, CTU or your local Chapter. Become a volunteer supporting a project or project of your local Chapter of TU. Join the Board of Directors of your local Chapter. Look elsewhere in this newsletter to identify volunteer opportunities that attract your interest.

If you did not attend the November meeting, you missed one of our best meetings. We had our largest attendance in some time. Ralph Kronkow and Scott Lazerowicz showed the good fishing that all enjoyed on their budget trip to remote Alaska. Join us for the Christmas party on December 10. Come to the next general meeting on January 12. Volunteer for one of our projects.

www.rockymtnflycasters.com

Stream Water Quality Measurement

Is the stream that you fish in polluted? Unfortunately, it is likely that no one knows. The Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) has asked Colorado Trout Unlimited to participate in a program to determine water quality in streams that are not currently monitored. These measurements will establish a baseline for future efforts to reduce or eliminate pollution. We do not yet know which streams are to be monitored. But we will be looking for volunteers to monitor stream water quality in area streams identified as critical by the DOW. You will see more information in the near future.





Raffles



At each General Membership Meeting, we hold a raffle. The proceeds of the raffle go towards the renting of the meeting room and various RMFC Projects. This year we will be supporting the printing of the plastic cards identifying fish species in Colorado. These cards allow all fishermen to identify the native Colorado trout species.

RMFC buys some of the raffle items. Local fly shops donate some of the items. And members donate some of the items. If you have a used or new fly-fishing item, for which you have no use, consider bringing it to the meeting and donating it to the raffle table.

Monies earned go toward other Projects such as Eagles Nest, and educational awards. When you come to the meeting, please support the raffle, and maybe win a new rod.

City Market Cares

City Market and King Soopers have value cards that shoppers use to get discounts at these stores. Chances are you already have one in your wallet. All you need to do to participate in their electronic fundraising program is sign up once. Then each time that you use your card to shop, the amount of your purchase is registered under the charity of your choice. Four times each year, the total amount registered to each charity is computed and a total of \$125,000 is distributed to the charities, proportional to the registered amounts. Colorado Trout Unlimited is one of the registered Charities.

If you sign up as a CTU member, your purchases will add to the total. This costs you nothing, and only requires your effort to sign up. Sign up sheets will be available at our General meetings. The CTU funds will support stream improvement statewide through their mini-grant program.

Fly Tying Classes

CYO is conducting fly tying classes at Loveland and Berthoud high Schools. CYO has asked for 12 volunteers from our Chapter to assist in these classes. The classes are Jan 5, Jan 19, and Feb 2. Since the first class is before the next general meeting, we need you to contact one of the Board members or send an e-mail to p-pfromme@att.net, or GJMSheets@aol.com as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your support.

CYO needs waders

Our Chapter will be assisting Colorado Youth Outdoors (CYO) by teaching fishing classes this spring. CYO has asked our Chapter to donate waders and boots. Do you have an old pair of waders or two, to donate to the cause? We will be collecting them at both our January and February meetings.

The January meeting is Jan 12. The February meeting is Feb 16. Note the date change for the Feb meeting. Thanks for your donations.

Fly Tyer's Corner - The TNT

My name is **Vincent Wilcox** and although I may be new to the industry as a production fly tier, fishing has consumed the majority of my free time for over twenty years. I grew up fishing around the Village of Saranac Lake, NY in the heart of the Adirondack Mountains. I now guide and tie at Angler's Roost in Fort Collins and have an article on tying microtube nymphs and dries on this month's Fly Fisherman magazine website. The TNT is one of the most effective patterns I have developed. Go to the fly pattern archive at www.flyfisherman.com for instruction on how to tie the TNT.

The TNT was pictured in the September issue of Fly Fisherman Magazine in an article K.C. Cochran wrote about the Poudre and Big Thompson Rivers, and it was described as being an indispensable fly when fishing these waters. I have found that this fly not only is indispensable on these rivers, but just about anywhere there are trout. Our customers have been able to take this fly throughout the West with tremendous success. From the little tiny tributaries to the largest rivers these flies have been fished throughout these drainages from their headwaters to their tailwaters with great success. They have spread into Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah and even New York with equal success.

The TNT is able to mimic several different possible food sources for the fish From Rock Worms rolling along the bottom to an emerging caddis pupa during a hatch. It will also pass as one of the most effective scud patterns you could ask for. I'm not sure what the fish take it for since no matter how many times I ask my fish what they thought it was, they are released back to the water in strict silence.

Even though caddis are available the majority of the time we fish, they are not always hatching. If they are not actively hatching this fly is best fished along the bottom and is an extremely effective search pattern throughout the season. I like to keep my indicator set about 1.5 times the depth of the water I'm fishing, and typically will trail the TNT with a Little Green Machine or Lint Bug (also my designs) separated by about 18 inches of tippet. As a general rule of thumb I try to fish with the lightest tippet possible. I will place weight about 8-10" above the TNT as well as in front of my dropper being careful to make sure the point fly is weighted heavier than the dropper to ensure the correct drift. Traditionally many people don't add weight between flies when nymphing, and when I work the upper column of water I often fish the flies in the same manner, but I have found that by adding weight to the dropper you will not only catch more fish, but are also less likely to get tangled up when casting. Having the weight in between your flies allows for your fly line to turn over the flies easier, and because of the additional tension caused by adding the weight you are more like to detect a strike. If you have too much slack in your leader beneath you indicator you will often miss strikes when the fish pick up a nymph and spit it out just as fast. If you work the water column adding weight as you want to go deeper, you will catch more fish than if you always maintain one depth. Start working the upper portion of the water column and work your way down to those stubborn fish feeding on the bottom, which is often times where you will find the most success.

My goal is to be able to help more people catch more fish. Often times it is difficult to get started in the sport of fly fishing, so please feel free to visit us at Angler's Roost in Ft. Collins and we would be more than happy to help you with any of your fly fishing and tying questions you may have. Tight Flies Make Tight Lines!

How To Fish the TNT

Don't hesitate to fish it in almost any situation and you too will learn to love this bug. The TNT fishes well in a variety of sizes and colors. When fishing the bigger tailwaters use the larger sizes (#12-#14) and in most other situations fish sizes #16-#18.

You can fish this fly in a variety of ways including swinging it 2 feet under a dry during a caddis emergence or along the bottom with an indicator. If your are not getting strikes that way, try using a tiny split to help break the surface tension so your TNT sinks 3-6" below the surface.



The TNT

Christmas Party

December 10, 2004



The Christmas party takes place on Friday December 10. The place is The Depot Restaurant in Loveland. The Depot is on 4th street in the old town part of Loveland. It is east of Route 287 on 4th Street. And amazingly, it sits adjacent to the RR tracks.

You can start arriving anytime after 6PM. The Hors d'ouvres buffet will be set out at 7 PM. A donation of \$5 per person is requested. Each donation of \$5 will receive a chance to win a fly rod. Bring flies for the fly tree and receive a chance to win all of the flies. Bring a white elephant gift and participate in the gift exchange. Hope to see you there.

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Calendar of Events

Rocky Mountain Flycasters Christmas Party, 6:00 PM, December 10 at The Depot in Loveland

December Board Meeting on the 14th at The Depot.

The January General Meeting will be on January 16 (a week later than usual). North Park Anglers will make a presentation about fishing in the Walden area.

'Tis the season for fly tying clubs, classes and clinics. Here are a few coming up:

Starting December 7, St. Peter's in Ft. Collins will have fly tying sessions every Tuesday from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Bring your tools, vice and materials. They will also start Saturday morning clinics with famous local tyers in January. Call 555-5555 for info.

Julie Ray of Bob's Fly Tying Specialties will be offering fly tying classes throughout the winter. The next set of classes starts January 18 and meets Tuesday and Thursday evenings for four weeks. Cost is \$75. December will be Book Month at Bob's. They will have hundreds of titles, many autographed by the authors.

January starts fly tying clinics at Angler's Roost. On the 17th Wilbur Gibson will be tying egg patterns and other interesting variations of popular patterns, January 24 Vince Wilcox will be demonstrating his local patterns and on the 31st Mark Boname will show his own patterns that have become famous on the Gray Reef and Miracle Mile.